Dissatisfaction on ICDS

125. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has expressed dissatisfaction on the implementation of Integrated Children Development Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to have this scheme properly implemented for the benefit of maximum number of eligible children.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Prime Minister has expressed concern over the current status of implementation of the ICDS Scheme. A number of Reports and Surveys, including the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) and Focus on Children Under Six (FOCUS) have indicated a decline in the qualitative aspects of the programme in some of the States/UTs.

(c) The Hon'ble Prime Minister has impressed upon the States to adequately empower the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to monitor and supervise the Anganwadi Centres and to make line officials accountable. Taking cognizance of the Prime Minister's observations, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has set up a National Level Monitoring Committee under the Chairpersonship of MOS (WCD) to oversee the entire functioning of ICDS Scheme and to ensure that the services are delivered to the target groups in an effective manner and the objectives of the scheme are fulfilled. Apart from this, the Government of India has also set up a Central Monitoring Unit (CMU) at National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) which would monitor the Scheme through independent professional organization/institution in each State/UT. This would be in addition to the monitoring mechanism in place at present.

To achieve universalization of ICDS and maximize the coverage of beneficiaries, further relaxation of the population norms has been recommended by Inter-Ministerial Task Force. Action for further expansion of ICDS Scheme would be initiated, after the approval of the Report of the Task Force by the competent authority.